



VOL. XVI.



OUR HOME, OUR COUNTRY, AND OUR BROTHER MAN.

BUDS IN CORN.

While looking over a field of Indian corn, not long since, with a friend, and examining some of the stalks and ears, he remarked that in his view corn was an "oddity" in the vegetable kingdom—that it grew up and increased from the *inside*, while other plants and trees grew up and increased by adding layers on the outside and had *buds*.

Our friend, who is an observing farmer, and not much acquainted with books and the science of botany, had only observed what has long been known among vegetable physiologists, viz: that there are two great classes of the vegetable tribes. One class, and by far the largest, increasing in size or growing by addition on the outside, and the other class increasing in size or growing from within.\*

In regard to the idea that such plants as Indian corn have no buds, it is a mistaken one. It is true that they do not have a system of buds like the other class, in all respects, but they are not destitute of them. They generally, or, indeed, we may say that they always have what may be called a terminal bud, as the spindle of Indian corn, for instance, and sometimes, when such plants are branched, they have several. This tribe of plants, in our latitude, is generally of human growth, but in tropical climates some of their largest and most stately trees belong to this class. Indian corn also has fruit or flower buds; but these are not generally seen until it begins "to ear," as it is called. If, however, you take a young stalk, and split it longitudinally, you will find, close up to the joint, a bud or rudiment of the ear—sometimes two or more. In the large horse-tooth or southern corn, these are more distinctly seen. The reason why they are not seen until pretty well developed, is, they are hidden by the sheath of the leaf until they have grown large enough to peep out above it. In the fifth volume of the American Agriculturist, you will find a communication from Mr. J. Darrack, of Orange county, N. Y., on this subject. In a lecture before a class of pupils, having a stalk of the sugar corn which he had split in two, he says: "At each axil of the seven lower blades, you perceive a bud cut through its longest axis. The white line in the center, with the indented line on either side, is the pith of the cob; those delicate, silvery filaments passing from each re-entering the indented line, are the styles, or silk; exterior to these are manifest the blades of the husk. Of the seven buds upon this stalk, the lowest is at this period most developed. Next autumn, when corn is ripe, you will find this present manifest order reversed. Those stalks which perfect any of these buds into full ears, will perfect the top ones. Then you will find the degree of development decrease as regularly downward as it does now upward. This lowest bud, now the largest, will probably be found to have made no advance—the next, a small one—the next an advance upon that, and thus to the perfect ear. The formation of buds always takes place if the leaves are developed. The order of early and later development, though reversed in regard to each other, is, in all my observations, the same. I speak of corn as usually cultivated. The degree of development depends upon variable circumstances, and is consequently variable. The number of buds depends upon the variety. This sugar corn has seven. Our modes of cultivation perfect from one to two, sometimes three."

The last number of the Cultivator, a portrait of a very spirited looking West Highland bull, is given. If all the cattle of this variety are as solid, compact, and short-legged as this figure would represent, we should think that they would be a valuable acquisition. Mr. Howard, in an article upon this subject, observes that "within sixty years we have had importations of several families of Short Horns and Long Horns, together with Herefords, Devons, Ayrshires and Alderneys. These breeds, for the particular purposes and localities for which each is adapted, have succeeded well, and have been of great advantage. But considering the great extent of our country, and the great variety of climate and surface which it embraces, the enquiry is presented whether there are not breeds which have never been introduced here that would be better suited to some sections than any we have yet obtained? We allude particularly to those parts of the country in which animals are required to endure considerable exposure, &c., to obtain their subsistence from rough and sterile grounds. Our Northern districts, including a large portion of New England, New York and the Canadas, and all the mountain ranges from thence to Georgia, are of this character."

In reference to the question, what would be the best and most profitable cattle for these sections? we beg leave to call attention to the characteristics of the West Highland breed.

He then quotes several descriptions of this breed, by which it appears they are a hardy, thrifty race, of beautiful symmetry, of medium size, healthy, and tough.

Should we be able to obtain a cut, we will publish the article entire. We join with friend Howard in the hope that either some of the numerous Societies, or some wealthy and enterprising individuals will import cattle of this breed. We have, in the United States, such an extent of country, such a range of climate, such a diversity of soil, and such a variety of objects and purposes in different locations, that there is not a really useful domestic animal in the world that would not find a home, and be the best kind for some location or other within our borders."

Wire Worm. A successful farmer of this vicinity, Mr. D. D. T. Moore, states that he has tried various substances for preventing the ravages of the wire worm, none of which, excepting sulphur, proved of any use. An Irishman told him that sulphur had been used with advantage in Ireland. Before planting his corn, Mr. M. wet it and rolled it in flour sulphur, and afterwards coated it in plaster to prevent the sulphur from wasting. He sowed a crop by this means where he had failed for three years before. We see no reason why the sulphur might not be equally effective for any other grain. [Albany Cultivator.]

\*Botanists have given the name *Endogenous*, signifying increasing in diameter by addition to its outside or centre, to one class, and *Exogenous* to those that increase from without.

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AUGUSTA, THURSDAY MORNING,

SEPTEMBER 7, 1848.

AGRICULTURE

MECHANIC ARTS

GENERAL

INTELLIGENCE & C.

NO. 36.

MANAGEMENT OF BEES.

This is a subject not much thought of in Maine. The streams and ponds and lakes are so abundant and so well stored with fish, that most people think it better to let them be, and go or send a hand and catch them from their natural haunts, than to be to the expense and trouble of making ponds or reservoirs and placing fish in them in order to have them "handy," as a Yankee would say, when needed. These ponds, however, may be, in many situations, very easily constructed. For instance, where a brook or larger stream runs through a person's premises, a reservoir might be made on one side and the waters conducted through it, or a section of the brook might be divided off by wire above and below so as to keep the fish within a certain portion of the stream where they could be taken with a net or tempted with the baited hook if sport was also desired as well as the fish. There is one advantage in the artificial reservoirs over the ponds made by natural streams—the water is more easily commanded. It may be drawn off and the fish sorted out, as is often done, the largest reserved for use and the smallest suffered to grow.

Fish may be fed and fattened as well as any other animal, and even trained so as to come at certain signals and receive their food. It is not long since that a paragraph went the rounds of the papers stating that a little girl in Hingham, Mass., had tamed a fish in a stream, by feeding it. The fish would come to her and suffer itself to be handled, and by the water of course, and was growing finely in the water of course, and was growing finely in some parts of it, it is better, as the good keeping it received from its little friend.

Most people seem to think the greater number of hives they can count, the better luck, as they term it. Now from the experience I have had in keeping bees, a different course should be pursued in order to succeed well; and my own conclusion is not a hasty one, for I have kept bees about twenty years; though during several years of the former part of that time I did not succeed very well; for I used to manage upon the old plan, and at the same time tried many experiments with them, some of which did not succeed as well as I had anticipated; but during the last ten or twelve years I have realized my most sanguine expectations.

My plan is not to count my army by the tents they occupy, but by the working men in them. I have all my hives strongly peopled, that they may not only repel an enemy, but drive them away. When a hive is strongly peopled, none of their common enemies will attack or injure them;—at any rate, it is only weak hives that are attacked by the bee moth or robbers. I never knew an instance of a strong hive being injured, unless some accident had happened to the comb.

I may be asked how I can have my hives all strongly peopled? It can be easily done, but it requires some experience as well as skill, to do it successfully; but in this the main secret lies. Nearly all the first swarms, which come out before the twentieth of June, will be sufficiently strong, and will not only make honey enough to winter on, but in good seasons will make from two to four boxes (of twelve pounds each,) of surplus honey, that can be removed without impoverishing the hives; but nearly all second swarms need to be reinforced however, it frequently happens that a third swarm comes out so as to put one of them with a second swarm, which generally makes them large enough. (I sometimes put three and even four small swarms together.) The size of a colony will be better understood by measurement in a hive than any other way. My hives are twelve inches inside and sixteen high in the clear, and when the swarm all settles in the hive, I want them two-thirds full at least; and when they fall short of this standard, I reinforce them till they come up to it. No fears need be entertained of these being too many bees in a hive, for the more bees the more honey they will make in the boxes. I have frequently had two of the first swarms go together, which have filled the hive of bees; such hives generally do best, and make far the most surplus honey; and are much better to go into winter quarters.

Hives frequently cast two and three swarms apiece, which reduces the stock in the old hive so low, that they are unfit for wintering; I let them cast their late and small swarms until all my swarms are sufficiently reinforced, and then, what comes out afterwards, I manage in the following way.

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I take a small hive and set it on a table for hiving, put the bees in front of the hive, and start them in moderately, and with a goose quill separate them till I can find the queen, which I destroy. It is necessary to keep a close watch until they all go into the hive, for sometimes there are two or three, and even more queens, in second and third swarms, which, if not destroyed, will remain in the hive, and not return to the one from which they came. If they do not go back by night, there is generally a queen left, and when that is the case, just at dark I take the hive and strike it pretty smartly on the table, and jar them out, and examine for another queen. The next morning they generally return to the parent hive.

Hives that have overswarmed themselves, or there is danger of their being destroyed by their enemies; or if they escape these there is danger of their dying in the winter in consequence of the want of warmth, being so few in number. It frequently happens that some of these over swarmed hives are old, and unfit for wintering. I take the bees out of such hives, to reinforce weak ones with. This should be done soon after the swarming time is over. With the hives that I have to reinforce, (when I have not old hives to reinforce them with,) I go to some of my strongest hives that have boxes on the top full of honey and bees, and take one or two boxes, just as seems necessary, and put them on the weak ones, in order to make them sufficiently strong for wintering. I take the bees out of such hives, to reinforce weak ones with. This should be done soon after the swarming time is over. With the hives that I have to reinforce, (when I have not old hives to reinforce them with,) I go to some of my strongest hives that have boxes on the top full of honey and bees, and take one or two boxes, just as seems necessary, and put them on the weak ones, in order to make them sufficiently strong for wintering. The bees in the boxes hardly stir for a day or two; then they all agree and go on to work with renewed vigor.

I might here state that I never destroy any bees. Weak hives seldom ever quarrel with their new companions. In swarming time, different swarms seldom disagree, unless the first swarm has been a considerable time in the hive, and the one put with them a much smaller one. If they ever do quarrel, an easy way to stop them is to run a small wire in their hive, and just start the honey in their comb. The uniting swarms should always be done just in the dusk of evening, and by morning they will all be united, when the

hive should be returned to its stand. Now I have but little hesitation in saying, that any one keeping bees, whose motto is, "strong hives or none," will have but little cause for complaint from the bee moth.

[Albany Cultivator.]

LOTAN SMITH.

PRESERVATION OF THE POTATO.

MESSRS. EDITORS—Allow me, in compliance with a request you have lately expressed, to say a few words on the preservation of the potato, which may perhaps, if it is not new, put some of your readers on their guard when the time comes round to put away this valuable plant.

We may form an estimate of how extensively the potato is used in America, from the complaints we hear from all parts of the country whenever there is a failure in the crop. People often make a comparison between this root and wheat, bread, and some say that they would as soon part with their bread as their potato. Now, though my affection for this esculent does not extend this far, yet I acknowledge that a good potato is a good thing, and an inferior one the worst of bad things. An unripe potato is one of the most unwholesome, indigestible of all aliment.

Many cases of illness that have been charged to hot weather, bad weather, &c., I think are justly due to swallowing hard potatoes. In its original, uncultivated state, the potato is poisonous. Ireland and Nova Scotia have both been celebrated for excellent potatoes, and they both possess a low, moist atmosphere. If such a climate is required for the perfection of this root, will not the hot weather account most satisfactorily for its poor growth in our Southern States. Light and air, so necessary for most other plants, are injurious to the potato, and the grand secret of its preservation is in its perfect exclusion from these active agents. A potato grown partially above ground will be green on its exterior, hard, heavy and bitter, while one grown in its proper place, will be of a natural color and fine flavored. The common keeper of hives is to place them in holes in the earth without any covering or preparation, using them whenever wanted. The proper way is to cover them closely with turf or earth. Owing to the severity of our winters, they cannot be allowed to remain where they are grown, and as this cannot be, some farmers dig large pits and bury them in the field. Care should be taken when this plan is adopted, not to put too many in a heap, twenty bushels in one pile is sufficient. Do not put a very thick covering of straw, or the potatoes will heat; the main object is only to keep out light and air, but if the winter is extremely severe, you may, towards its latter end, increase this covering to prevent freezing. If the ground is properly selected in the spring, the potatoes will be rather improved than deteriorated by the winter's keeping. Farmers who feed them extensively to their stock, will see the use of sorting them more carefully than they have hitherto done, on account of their apprehended scarcity and consequent high price.

ECONOMY.

CLOVER FOR HORSES. It is a common remark, that clover hay, if fed to horses for any length of time, occasions a cough, and greatly aggravates, if it does not occasion the hives. There are two remedies for this. One is to deposit the hay in a manger instead of a rack. The leaves of clover cured after the old fashion, are so dry and crispy, that they crumble and pulverize as they are drawn violently from the rack, occasioning a dust, which, being inhaled, irritates the lungs, and hence coughs, &c. In taking up the hay from a manger, nothing but the clearest and most wholesome benefit to the man himself will induce one who has all his life long carried a stone in one end of the bag, to balance the bushel of corn in the other, to adopt the improved system of discarding the stone, and dividing the corn into equal parts. [American Agriculturist.]

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# The Maine Farmer; A Family Newspaper, Devoted to Agriculture, Mechanic Arts, Literature, General Intelligence, &c. &c.

## The Muse.

### AUTUMN.

How dear to roam along the sun-bills,  
When Industry has gathered treasure hills;  
With richest stores from fields of ripened grain;  
While the sun sets the fields the pondrous wain;  
Deep indigo with the yellow ears, is drawn,  
While with trees that overhang the lane,  
The ripe red apples, shaken down, down,  
Lie scattered thick and far along the level lawn.  
The winding rill along the sunny vale,  
Sings its sweet song to cheer the roamer's heart;  
And off its voice the passive autumn gale.  
Will join and cause the rustling leaves to start;  
While scenes of screaming blackbirds bear their part,  
And traps of noisy hawks, with dog and cart,  
Are bearing to the hills with youthful glee,  
To shake the nuts from the tall walnut tree.  
But soon this beauteous pageant shall fail,  
And every mellow tint of Autumn fade;  
A melancholy morn fills the gale,  
And sorrowful o'er the yellowing glade;  
And beauty sets upon the hills no more;  
The verdure of the wood is prostate laid,  
And soon the Autumn rains begin to pour,  
And down the craggy rocks the swelling torrents roar.  
Such is the fortune of majestic man!

The leaves of fragrance round his forehead flow,  
The laureate wreath, that gales of fortune gave,  
For which he climbed so high or stooped so low;  
But soon approach the tempest clouds of woe,  
To mar the beauty of his brightest deed:  
Yet while he mourns his fortune's overthrow,  
He looks to heaven for some more glorious mead;  
Thus to the autumn winds I turn my Dorick read.

## The Story-Teller.

### THE GOLD-BUG.

BY EDGAR A. POE.

[CONCLUDED.]

The lanterns have been lit, we all fell to work with a zeal worthy a more rational cause; and, as the glare fell upon our persons and implements, I could not help thinking how picturesque a group we composed, and how strange and suspicious our labors must have appeared to any interloper, who by chance, might have stumbled upon our whereabouts.

We dug very steadily for two hours. Little was said; and our chief embarrassment lay in the yelpings of the dog, who took an exceeding interest in our proceedings. He at length became so obstreperous that we grew fearful of his giving the alarm to some strangers in the vicinity; or rather this was the apprehension of Legrand; for myself I should have rejoiced at any interruption which might have enabled me to get the wanderer home. The noise was at length very effectually silenced by Jupiter, who, getting out of the hole with a dogged air of deliberation, tied the brute's mouth up with one of his suspenders, and then returned with a grave chuckle, to his task.

When the time mentioned had expired, we had reached a depth of five feet, and yet no signs of any treasure became manifest. A general pause ensued, and I began to hope that the farse was at an end. Legrand, however, although evidently disconcerted, wiped his brow thoughtfully, and recommended, We had excavated the entire circle of four feet diameter, and now we slightly enlarged the limit, and went to the further depth of two feet. Still nothing appeared. The gold-seeker, whom I sincerely pitied, at length clambered from the pit, with the bitterest disappointment imprinted on every feature, and proceeded slowly and reluctantly to put on his coat, which he had thrown off at the beginning of his labor. In the meantime I made no remark. Jupiter, at a signal from his master, began to gather up his tools. This done, and the dog having been unmuzzled, we turned in a profound silence towards home.

We had taken perhaps a dozen steps in this direction, when, with a loud oath, Legrand strode up to Jupiter, and seized him by the collar. The astonished negro opened his eyes and mouth to the fullest extent, let fall his spades, and fell upon his knees.

"You scoundrel," said Legrand hissing out the syllables from between his clenched teeth, "you infernal black villain! speak, I tell you!—answer me this instant, without prevarication—which—which is your left eye?"

"Oh, my golly, massa Will! ain't dis here my lef eye for sartin?" roared the terrified Jupiter, placing his hand upon his right organ of vision, and holding it there with a desparate pertinacity, as if in immediate dread of his master's attempt at a gouge.

"I thought so! I knew it! hurrab!" vociferated Legrand, letting the negro go, and executing a series of curves and caracoles, much to the astonishment of his valet, who, arising from his knees, looked mutely from his master to myself, and then from myself to his master.

"Come! we must go back," said the latter; "the game is not up yet," and he again led the way to the tulip tree.

"Jupiter," said he, when we reached its root, "come here! was the skull nailed to the limb with the face outwards or with the face to the limb?"

"De face was out, massa, so dat de crows could get at de eyes good, without any trouble."

"Well, then, was it this eye or that through which you dropped the beetle?"—here Legrand touched each of Jupiter's eyes.

"It was dis eye mass—de lef eye—dis is what you tell me," and here it was his right eye that the negro indicated.

"That will do—we must try again."

Here my friend, about whose madness I now saw, or fancied that I saw, certain indications of method, removed the peg nearest the tree, to a spot about three inches to the westward of its former position. Taking now the tape-measure from the nearest point of the trunk as before and continuing the extension in a straight line to the distance of fifty feet, a spot was indicated, removed, by several yards, from the point at which we had been digging.

Around the new position, a circle somewhat larger than in the former instance, was now described, and we again set to work with the spades. I was dreadfully weary, but, scarcely understanding what had occasioned this change in my thoughts, I felt no longer any great aversion for the labor imposed. I had become most unaccountably interested—nay even excited. Perhaps there was something, amid all the extravagant demeanor of Legrand—some air of forethought, or of deliberation, which impressed me. I dug eagerly, and now and then caught myself actually looking, with something that very much resembled expectation, for the fancied treasure, the vision of which had demented my unfortunate companion. At a period when such vagaries of thought most fully possessed me, and when we had been at work perhaps an hour and a half, we were again interrupted by the violent howlings of the dog. His unceasiness in the first instance, had been evidently but the result of playfulness or caprice, but he

now assumed a bitter and serious tone. Upon Jupiter's again attempting to muzzle him, he made furious resistance, and leaping into the hole, tore up the mould frantically with his claws. In a few seconds he had uncovered a mass of human bones, forming two complete skeletons, and intermingled with several buttons of metal, of what appeared to be the dust of decayed woolen. One or two strokes of a spade upturned the blade of a large Spanish knife, and, as we dug farther, three or four loose pieces of gold and silver came to light.

At sight of these, the joy of Jupiter could scarcely be restrained, but the countenance of his master wore an air of extreme disappointment. He urged us, however, to continue our exertions, and the words were hardly uttered, when I stumbled and fell forward, having caught the toe of my boot in a large ring of iron that lay half buried in the loose earth.

"The scrap of paper you mean," said I. "No; it had much of the appearance of paper, and at first I supposed it to be such, but when I came to draw upon it, I discovered it to be once to a piece of very thin parchment. It was quite dirty you remember. Well, as I was in the very act of crumpling it up, my glance fell upon the sketch at which you had been looking, and you may imagine my astonishment, when I perceived in fact, the figure of a death's head, just where, it seemed to me, I had made the drawing of the beetle. For a moment I was too much amazed to think with accuracy. I knew that my design was very different in detail from this—although there was a certain similarity in general outline. Presently I took a candle, and seating myself at the other end of the room, proceeded to scrutinize the parchment more closely. Upon turning it over, I saw my own sketch upon the reverse, just as I had made it. My first idea now, was mere surprise at the really remarkable similarity of outline—at the singular coincidence involved in the fact, unknown to me, there should have been a skull upon the other side of the parchment, immediately beneath my figure of the scarabaeus, and that this skull, not only in outline, but in size, should so closely resemble my drawing. I say the singularity of this coincidence absolutely stupefied me for a time. This is the usual effect of such coincidences. The mind struggles to establish a connection, a sequence of cause and effect, and being unable to do so, suffers a species of temporary paralysis. But when I recovered from this stupor, there dawned upon me gradually a conviction which startled me far more than the coincidence. I began distinctly, positively, to remember that there had been no drawing upon the parchment when I made my sketch of the scarabaeus. I became perfectly certain of this, for I recollect turning up first one side and then the other, in search of the clearest spot. Had the skull been there all the time? Here was indeed a mystery which I felt it impossible to explain; but, even at that early moment, there seemed to glimmer faintly, within the most remote and secret chambers of my intellect, a glow-worm-like conception of that truth which last night's adventure brought so magnificently a demonstration. I arose at once, dismissing all further reflection till I should be alone.

"When you had gone, and when Jupiter was fast asleep, I betook myself to a more methodical investigation of the affair. In the first place I considered the manner in which the parchment had come into my possession. The spot where we discovered the scarabaeus was on the coast of the main land, about a mile eastward of the island, and but a little distance above high water mark. Upon my seizing it, it gave me a sharp bite, which caused me to let it drop. Jupiter, with his accustomed caution, before seizing the insect, which had flown towards him, looked about him for a leaf, or something of that nature, by which to take hold of it. It was at this moment that his eyes, and mine also, fell upon the scrap of parchment, which I then supposed to be paper. It was lying half buried in the sand, a corner sticking up. Near the spot where we found it, I observed the remnants of the hull of what appeared to have been a ship's long boat. The wreck seemed to have been there for a very great while; for the resemblance to boat timbers could scarcely be detected.

"We were now thoroughly broken down; but the intense excitement of the time denied us repose. After an unquiet slumber of some three or four hours' duration, we arose, as if by preconcert, to make examination of our treasure; and, as if in immediate dread of his master's attempt at a gouge.

"I thought so! I knew it! hurrab!" vociferated Legrand, letting the negro go, and executing a series of curves and caracoles, much to the astonishment of his valet, who, arising from his knees, looked mutely from his master to myself, and then from myself to his master.

"Come! we must go back," said the latter; "the game is not up yet," and he again led the way to the tulip tree.

"Jupiter," said he, when we reached its root, "come here! was the skull nailed to the limb with the face outwards or with the face to the limb?"

"De face was out, massa, so dat de crows could get at de eyes good, without any trouble."

"Well, then, was it this eye or that through which you dropped the beetle?"—here Legrand touched each of Jupiter's eyes.

"It was dis eye mass—de lef eye—dis is what you tell me," and here it was his right eye that the negro indicated.

"That will do—we must try again."

Here my friend, about whose madness I now saw, or fancied that I saw, certain indications of method, removed the peg nearest the tree, to a spot about three inches to the westward of its former position. Taking now the tape-measure from the nearest point of the trunk as before and continuing the extension in a straight line to the distance of fifty feet, a spot was indicated, removed, by several yards, from the point at which we had been digging.

By experiment of the entire alphabet for a letter adapted to the raciness, we perceive that no word can be found of which the *th* can a part. We are thus narrowed in to *te*, and going through the alphabet as before, we arrive at the word 'tree' as the sole possible. We thus gain another letter, *r*, represented by *r*, with the words 'the tree' in juxtaposition. Beyond this, we again see *as*, and employing it by way of termination to what immediately precedes, we have the word *as*; or, substituting the natural letters, who known, it reads thus: 'the tree *th* the. Now if, in place of the unknown characters, we leave blank spaces, or substitute dots, we read thus:

"Well, Jupiter picked up the parchment, wrapped the beetle in it, and gave it to me. Soon afterwards we turned to go home, and on the way met Lieut. C. I showed him the insect, and he begged me to let him take it with him to the fort. Upon my consenting, he thrust it forth with his waistcoat pocket, without the parchment in which it had been wrapped, and which I had continued to hold in my hand during his inspection. Perchance he desired my changing my mind, and thought it best to make sure of the prize at once; you know how enthusiastic he is on all subjects connected with natural history. At the same time, without being conscious of it, I must have deposited the parchment in my own pocket.

"I remember that when I went to the table for the purpose of making a sketch of the beetle, I found no paper where it is usually kept. I looked in the drawer and found none. I searched my pockets, hoping to find an old letter, when my hand fell upon the parchment. I thus detect the precise mode in which it came into my possession; for the circumstances impressed me with peculiar force.

"No doubt you will think me fanciful, but I had already established a kind of connection. I had put together two links of a great chain. There was a boat lying on a sea-coast, and not far from the boat was parchment—not a paper—with a skull depicted upon it. You reply that the skull or death's head is the well known emblem of the pirate. The flag of the death's head is hoisted in all engagements.

"You are well aware that chemical preparations exist by which to write upon either parchment or paper, so that the characters shall become visible only when subjected to the action of fire. I doubted not that the heat of the fire, as you held the parchment, had been the agent in bringing to light the skull which I have designed upon it. I now scrutinized it with care. Its outer edges appeared far more distinct than the others. It was clear that the action of the heat had been unequal. I now kindled a fire, and subjected every portion of the parchment to a glowing heat. At first, the only effect was the strengthening of the faint lines, but upon the subsequent application of the heat, the skull was delineated, the figure of what I at first supposed to be a goat. A closer scrutiny, however, satisfied me that it was intended for a kid.

"NEW AND TRUE. A very modest old maid visiting a new married friend recently, saw which, plainly, is the conclusion of the word 'degree,' and gives us another letter, *d*, represented by *d*. Four letters beyond the word 'degree,' we perceive the combination *as*; *as*. Translating the known characters, and representing the unknown by dots, as before, we read

"the tree *th* the, when the word 'through' makes itself evident at once. But the discovery gives us three new letters, *o*, *u*, and *g*, represented by *o* and *g*. Looking now narrowly through the cipher for combinations of known characters, we find, not far from the beginning, this arrangement,

*as*; *as* or *egre*, which, plainly, is the conclusion of the word 'degree,' and gives us another letter, *d*, represented by *d*. Four letters beyond the word 'degree,' we perceive the combination *as*; *as*. Translating the known characters, and representing the unknown by dots, as before, we read

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grand, who, saw that I was dying with impatience, for a solution of this most extraordinary riddle, entered into a full detail of all the circumstances connected with it.

"You remember," said he, "the night when I banded you the rough sketch of the scarabaeus. You recollect, also, that I became quite vexed with you for insisting that my drawing resembled a death's head. When you first made this assertion, I thought you were jesting; but afterwards I called to mind the peculiar spots on the back of the insect, and admitted to myself that your remark had some little foundation in fact. Still, the sneer at my graphic powers irritated me—for I am considered a good artist; and therefore, when you handed me the scrap of parchment, I was about to crumple it up and throw it angrily upon my face?

"Well; you have heard of course the thousand and vague rumors about money being buried somewhere upon the Atlantic coast, by Kidd and his associates. These rumors must have had some foundation in fact. And that the rumors have existed so long and so continuously, could have resulted, it appeared to me, only from the circumstance of the buried treasure still remaining entombed. Had Kidd concealed his plunder for a time, and afterwards reclaimed it, the rumors would scarcely have reached us in their present unvarying form.

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"But your grandiloquence, and your conduct in swinging the beetle—how excessively I was! I was sure you were mad. And why did you insist upon dropping the bug, instead of a bullet, through the skull?"

"Why, to be frank, I felt somewhat annoyed by your evident suspicions touching my sanity, and so resolved to punish you by a little bit of sober mystification. For this reason I swung the beetle